

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
For the
Somerton, Arizona Replacement of Wastewater System

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the City of Somerton to construct a new wastewater treatment plant necessary to cease recurrent NPDES permit violations.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The City of Somerton is proposing to reconstruct the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which is currently unable to adequately treat wastewater and has experienced recurrent NPDES permit violations. The project is also necessary to alleviate existing adverse environmental effects associated with the Somerton WWTP. These effects include the generation of offensive odors, and risks to human health and safety.

The current WWTP uses a series of three lagoons to treat wastewater generated within the incorporated limits of the City of Somerton, Arizona. As there is no preliminary treatment facility at the WWTP, deposited solids have accumulated in the lagoons over time. In conjunction with the deposition of benthic solids, short retention times have reduced the effectiveness of the WWTP. The proposed treatment units are being designed at 0.8 mgd, which allow for a 30% increase in flows over current conditions. However, in order to allow for future expansions, the headworks, pump station, and outfall will be built for approximately 1.4 mgd.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in the U.S., as well as the transboundary impacts that might occur in Mexico. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of this project. As the Yuma Main Drain conveys water to Mexico, the proposed action also provides potential beneficial transboundary effects.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. Copies of the EA are also available for public review at the Somerton City Hall located at 110 N. State Avenue, Somerton, Arizona 85350, and at the Somerton Public Library, 240 W. Canal Street, Somerton, Arizona 85350. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA Region 9's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/border/index.html>

To obtain additional information about the project, please contact Doug Liden by email at: liden.douglas@epa.gov or by calling (415) 972-3406.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the date this document is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of this comment period, which ends May 27, 2002. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Doug Liden at the address listed below.

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After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA-s responses, and this FNSI will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If the Regional Administrator signs this FNSI, it will not be recirculated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.

FINDING

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator

Date